

## Message Text

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17

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 /098 W

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R 200730Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3540

UNCLAS BANGKOK 26111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, TH

SUBJ: ECONOMIC SITUATION AND TRENDS IN THAILAND

1. ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT FOR THAILAND BEING POUCHED.  
SUMMARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: BY MOST INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC HEALTH THAILAND IS DOING VERY WELL IN 1976. THE COUNTRY IS SHARING IN THE GENERAL RECOVERY IN THE WORLD ECONOMY. THE CRUCIAL FOREIGN TRADE FACTOR IS LEADING THE RECOVERY IN THAILAND, WITH EXPORTS UP OVER THIRTY PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. IMPORTS, HOWEVER, MOVED AHEAD ONLY SLIGHTLY REFLECTING THE LOW LEVEL OF DEMAND FOR NEW CAPITAL EQUIPMENT. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE CUTBACK IN NEW INVESTMENT, BOTH THAI AND FOREIGN.

3. WHILE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE TO A REVIVAL OF INVESTMENT, THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCIVE TO BUILDING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SOME CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD BUT BUSINESSMEN GENERALLY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE SLOW PACE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. MUCH LESS IS NOW HEARD ABOUT THE THREAT FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION OR INTERNAL INSURGENCY THAN IN THE PERIOD JUST AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKE OVER OF  
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NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, BUT IT IS STILL A SOURCE OF

CONCERN FOR SOME.

4. THE MARKET FOR U.S. PRODUCTS IN THAILAND HAS BEEN  
GROWING OVER THE PAST DECADE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR LSALSALES IN  
SUCH FIELDS AS AGRIBUSINESS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, AND  
SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ARE GOOD. ANY MAJOR  
REVIVAL OF NEW INVESTMENT DEPENDS UPON AN IMPROVED POLITICAL  
CLIMATE AND RESOTRATION OF BUSINESS CONFIDENCE. THE  
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR SUCH A REVIVAL ARE PRESENT.  
END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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